



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: All media are invited to attend the all-day event, with the most opportunity for documenting activity from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A media suite overlooking the exhibit floor has been arranged adjacent to a distinguished visitor suite. Press kits will be available in the suite as well as a Kirtland AFB representative on hand to help coordinate photo/interview opportunities. For more information or to RSVP, please call 846-6315 or 238-2216.

April 24, 2006
DE RELEASE NO. 2006-15
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MARS DISCOVERED AT ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- An estimated 1,100 students from 34 New Mexico schools are expected here Friday to construct inflatable shelters that they will link together to form a simulated Mars colony.

The event will take place at the Albuquerque Convention Center, in the Fran Hill Exhibit Hall. The students will construct their colonies in the over 100,000-foot space, while various organizations from nearby Kirtland Air Force Base will display information in exhibits in an adjoining reception hall.

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MARS DISCOVERED AT ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER-2

The name for this year's event is the Mars Membrane Mirror Mission, which will put the student's three months of study about the "red" planet to use. This includes demonstrations by five-to-seven-person student teams on life support systems they developed for Mars. These support systems include air and water supply, waste management, temperature control, food production, communications, transportation and recreation.

In its twelfth year, the AF STARBASE® La Luz Mars Missions Project, (formerly the Air Force Research Laboratory's Mars Missions project), a total of close to 3000 New Mexico students and 60 schools are participating in four regional events. The first one took place March 17 at White Sands Missile Range. Other Link-Up Days were at Cannon Air Force Base April 7 and in Farmington April 12.

The project is based on the Challenger Center's Marsville Program and is designed as a learning experience to teach students about teamwork and problem solving, and to enhance the study of math, science, and engineering. Students are exposed to technological and environmental space exploration issues.

During this five-hour meeting, the students will construct their habitats, undergo a "uniform" inspection, brief each other on the life support systems they have built and complete a mission log. They will also weigh their bag lunches because every cargo-pound must be accounted for as though they were actually rocketing to Mars.

During the course of this project, the student teams have stayed in touch with each other with computers, fax machines and on the telephone, but this event will be the first time they will meet each other face to face.

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MARS DISCOVERED AT ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER-2

Participating elementary and intermediate schools are:

Adobe Acres Elementary School, Albuquerque Christian School, Alvarado Elementary School, Anton Chico/Rita M. Marquez Elementary School, Armijo Elementary School, Bandelier Elementary School, Cochiti Elementary School, Colinas del Norte Elementary School, Comanche Elementary School, Edward Gonzales Elementary School, Hope Christian Elementary School, Hubert Humphrey Elementary School, Juan de Onate Elementary, Kaune Elementary School, Mesa View Elementary School, Montessori of the Rio Grande, Montezuma Elementary School, Our Lady of Fatima School, Queen of Heaven School, Raymond Gabaldon Intermediate School, Rio Grande Elementary School, Rocky View Elementary School, San Felipe de Neri School, San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School, Sandia Base Elementary School, Santo Domingo Elementary School, Solomon Schechter Day School, South Mountain Elementary School, Super Fantastic Intergalactic Rocketeers, Te Tsu Geh Oweenge Day School, Thoreau Elementary School, Tomasita Elementary School, T'siya Middle School, and Yarbrow Elementary School.

Also participating are sixth-grade mentors from several middle schools, consisting of former Mars colonists, on hand to help as Mission Control members.